

JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION

FALL 2011

INFOCUS



**PRESIDENT'S  
MESSAGE**

Audrey Campbell

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FROM  
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THE JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION

# New Year's Eve Dinner

**S A T U R D A Y  
DECEMBER 31, 2011**

6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

**ADMISSION: \$35.00 BEFORE DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>  
\$45.00 DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> TO 28<sup>TH</sup>**

**DINING ONLY - DANCE TICKETS ARE SOLD SEPARATELY  
AT \$30.00 ADVANCED AND \$35.00 AT THE DOOR  
NO DINING TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AFTER 28TH**



**THE JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION  
MEMBER'S LOUNGE  
BACK ENTRANCE**

**995 ARROW RD**

**WWW.JCAONTARIO.ORG TEL: 416-746-5772**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As we wind down the calendar year we had two very successful events in September our JCA scholarship program and the annual Senior's Brunch. Thanks to the generosity of our donors we were able to distribute over \$50,000 in scholarships and bursaries. It was gratifying to speak to the recipients and hear how grateful they were for the much needed financial assistance. We were pleased that our High Commissioner of Jamaica to Canada, Mrs. Sheila Sealy Monteith, was able to join us. Her words of encouragement were an inspiration to the recipients.

Our annual Senior's Brunch seems to get bigger and bigger each year. The Senior's Brunch affords us the opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to our elders who paved the way for us. It was well attended as many came out to pay tribute to the Hon Gerry Philips who was retiring from provincial politics after many decades of public service. The JCA made a presentation to Mr. Philips in recognition for his support of our Association throughout the years. Events such as our Scholarship Program and our Senior's Brunch are two of the reasons why I became a volunteer.

Giving back to ones community and helping others is an extremely rewarding experience. We are currently seeking volunteers for our Fundraising, Public Relations and Youth committees. Joining a committee only requires a commitment of a few hours per month and the rewards of volunteering far outweigh the sacrifices. As I have stated in the past, volunteers can gain work experience, network and meet new people, learn new things and most importantly help someone else. If you or anyone you know are interested in sitting on a committee please contact me at the JCA and I will connect you with the appropriate Committee Chair.

The countdown is on for our 50th Anniversary! It will be a yearlong celebration of our milestone. To celebrate our 50th we will be launching a direct mail campaign. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 in recognition of our 50 years of existence. We anticipate great support for this initiative given JCA's contribution to the community.

We are hard at work in preparation for the New Year. I encourage you to bring out the family to our annual Children's Christmas party, Sunday, December 4th and ring in the New Year with us at the Centre on December 31st. Please check out our website to keep abreast of the many activities at the JCA.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff I wish you happy holiday season and a very safe and prosperous New Year.

Warmest regards,

*Audrey Campbell*

President





## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

We are six months into our fiscal year and the JCA have provided an amazing amount of support to youth, seniors and families through our social services programs. And provided a place where the community can come together to celebrate our achievements.

### EMPLOYMENT FAIR

Our employment program staff held a Job Fair on Wednesday, October 26, 2011 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. The fair had 17 employers and 195 registered participants in attendance. The job fair was themed "Fall Into Action" and was a success. Employers included Royal Bank Canada, The Toronto Star and UPS.

### SENIORS PROGRAM

Over the last three months The Caribbean Canadian Seniors enjoyed going on local trips to Fenelon Falls, Wildwood Park, High Park and Ward Island. They also went on a trip to New York City for the Thanksgiving weekend. The men participated in a Prostate Cancer Awareness workshop, which involved healthy cooking and a presentation from Prostate Cancer Canada. During the quarter, Toronto Public Health came on-site and held a dental clinic at the JCA. This included education on oral health, dental screening and denture cleaning. Also, the Alzheimer Society of Canada presented to the seniors on Alzheimer's disease and brain health.

### STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

The Social Services Committee including myself, Adaoma Patterson (Executive Secretary) and Sonia Mills-Minister (Program Manager) will be spearheading the Social Services Strategic Planning this fall. The United Way Toronto has connected us with a Pro-Bono Consultant to facilitate the process. There will be representation from various stakeholders in the planning process. The Social Services Strategic plan will result in setting goals and objectives for the next 3 years and will link with the current strategic plan. The vision and mission statements of the JCA will also be reviewed in the process. We are very excited about this undertaking.

Continued next page.....

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

### TAX RECEIPTING

We have recognized that there have been long standing issues around the timeliness and accuracy of tax receipts. Over the past year tax receipt transactions have been augmented with the increased participation in the JCA walkathon. We have responded by introducing additional checks and balances to make the system more efficient. More donors are now using our on-line donations option setup on our website. Donors can donate safely with a major credit card (Master Card, Visa or American Express). A tax receipt will be generated and can be printed immediately or be sent to the donor by email.

### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

We continue to build relationships with community partners and establish new ones. We are networking with TAIBU, a community-led organization that serves the residents of Malvern with a specialized focus on the Black Community and also Microskills, a multiservice organization, to look at new initiatives and how we can work together. We will once again be around the planning table for the Canadian Diabetes Association, 3rd Annual Black Diabetes Expo being planned for April 2012.

The momentum is building for JCA and Jamaica's 50th Golden Jubilee next year. There is a lot of excitement in the air around this. As we approach the holiday season, I wish our Board, staff, members, volunteers, supporters, clients and customers a safe and blessed holiday. And best wishes for 2012.

Respectfully,

*Michael A Foster*  
Chief Executive Officer



# PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The PR team has been actively recruiting and spreading the word about JCA through the monthly networking series titled AWE which is After Work Edutainment. AWE has been peaking interest from people who have never even heard of JCA before. The numbers are growing as more and more people express an interest in JCA.

## AWE – After Work Edutainment

### 1ST EDITION – GARVEY NIGHT

The turn out at Garvey Night wasn't as anticipated. It was held at the JCA on September 22nd. As expressed by the dedicated few who attended; the content was great and the event is promising. Considering it was the first event, we were encouraged that the concept was great and that interest will be peaked as the word gets out.

### 2nd EDITION – MINE YUH BIZNESS

This event was well attended, the word is getting out. It was held at Room Service, a quaint Caribbean restaurant nestled in the heart of St. Clair Avenue West and Oakwood. The audience was inspired by the information provided and said it was a great networking session. Information provided by the speakers was felt to be useful and encouraging.

### 3rd EDITION – POSTPONED

The 3rd edition of AWE was postponed due to a passing of an AWE family member.

### SOUNDS & MOVEMENTS

However, the 4th edition scheduled for Thursday December 15th at JCA will be a double segment of Pure Drama + Soundz & Movement. We encourage you to invite friends and loved ones. It will be an evening geared towards displaying the evolution of Jamaican music and drama.

### YOUTUBE VIDEOS

The first video was posted on September 30th and the 2nd set will be posted by November 30th.

*Jolan Williams* - Public Relations Chair

# WOMEN'S COMMITTEE REPORT

## Agents of Change

On October 7, 2011, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee and Tawakel Karman, held the distinct honour of being co-recipients of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize - for their non-violent struggles for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work." Perhaps the most prominent of the three is Liberian President, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Africa's first female head of state. Dr. Johnson-Sirleaf had had a colourful political career which spans over 30 years. Beginning in the 1980's when she was imprisoned for criticising President, Samuel Doe. In 2009, it was recommended that she be barred from office for 30 years, for supporting Charles Taylor, who is accused for war crimes against his people.

President Johnson-Sirleaf is the recipient of numerous International awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2007; the highest civilian honour bestowed by an American president. Johnson-Sirleaf has written widely on financial, development and human rights issues. Newsweek magazine listed Johnson-Sirleaf as one of the ten best leaders in the world. Time placed her among the top ten female leaders. The Economist called her "the best President the country has ever had." In 2008 she published her memoir, "This Child Will Be Great".

The second woman co-recipient of the Peace Prize, Leymah Gbowee, is also well known, in Liberia, for her activism and advocacy of human rights and freedom. Leymah She's rallied hundreds of women activists from ethnic and religious divides to pressure former president Charles Taylor and his government to end Liberia's civil war. For the 2005 elections, Ms. Gbowee organized of women-led rallies in 9 of 15 provinces to help Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf successfully campaign for the presidency. In 2006 she co-founded the Women Peace and Security Network Africa (WPSNA); an organization based in Accra, Ghana. WPCNA works with women in West African countries with a history of conflict.

Tawakul Karman, the third co-recipient, has led regular peaceful protests and sit-ins which called for the release of political prisoners in Yemen. She is credited for organizing very successful demonstrations against President Ali-Abdullah Saleh. Tawakul is a member of Yemen's leading Islamist opposition party, Islah, which calls for reforms in accordance with Islamic principles. Jailed on several occasions for her activism, Ms. Karman is noted for refusing to wear a full veil – as decreed by; choosing instead to wear a headscarf.

At 72, Johnson-Sirleaf is still a tireless advocate for world peace and gender-equality. She was re-elected on October 11, to a second term as president. Over the last five years, Leymah Gbowee is credited for mobilizing Muslim and Christian women across the country, in peaceful protests. Tawakul Karman is now the youngest person to ever win the Nobel Peace Prize. The 32 year old mother of three is a journalist by profession and the founder of Women Journalists Without Chains. These ordinary women, from ordinary backgrounds, have determined that regardless of the dangers and obstacles confronting them, the peril of in-equality is a much more damaging force, and have resolve themselves to affect change. Three women; two countries; one goal - the rights of women to be including in the decision making process.





# MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

### Annual Seniors Appreciation Brunch

Thanks to all of you who attended our Annual Seniors' Appreciation Brunch. The event was well attended as we had over 165 guests, many of whom were sponsored. Everyone had a great time so thanks for the very many positive feedback. Thanks to guest speaker Hon Gerry Phillips MPP who was well received and thanks to the MC Phyllis Walker who kept everyone entertained throughout the afternoon. The afternoon started with the youth entertaining the seniors. Young miss. Brittany Bowen sang the national anthem. Ms. Amy recited a poem while the Caribbean and Canadian Seniors also performed and our main entertainer of the evening Mr. Junior Whisper who entertained the audience with some well received oldies and sing-alongs. Special Recognition and Plaques were presented to individuals selected by Membership committee and The Caribbean and Canadian Seniors who demonstrated consistency in the organisation throughout the years, they were presented with bouquets and gift baskets. The recipients were Messrs. Doug Robertson, Fred Ellis and Wilbert Johnson; Mrs. Iris John and the late Mrs. Beryl Morrison. The door prize a two night's stay for two at the Comfort Inn Hotel, was won by Ms. Eunice Graham of the Women's committee

#### THANK YOU TO:

**MC:** Phyllis Walker, and Pastor Betty Cooper

**Committee Members:** Pam Reynolds (Chair), Dean Parker, Shirley McKoy, Eulin Lewinson, Herbert Green, Mary Green, Janet Samms, Enid Gough, Nadine McLean, Anastasia Samms, Len Moore, Pansy Stewart, Winston Brown, Glenford Gordon

**Entertainers:** Junior Whisper and Brittany Bowen.

**DJ's:** Desmond and Randy.

**Volunteers:** Anastasia Samms and team of volunteers, Jeanne Reid, Reanna Dewdney, Qizam Newell.

**Our Donors and Sponsors:** Beryl Nugent, Buds and Bloom Florist, Dr. Mavis Burke, Nadine Mclean of Comfort Inn Airport West Hotel. Jermaine Granville of Western Union. Linda Gray, Mel Thompson and Magan Sandiford, Carol Walker, Florizel Brown, Chris and Mary Anne. Chambers.

**JCA Members:** Founder Ms. Amy Nelson, members Charmaine Sewell, Trisha Francis, Audrey Campbell, Gifford and Raphaelita Walker, Del Miller, Dwaine Osbourne, Yolan Williams, Roy and Grace Williams. Many thanks to the many sponsors especially those, who sponsored seniors. We hope to see you all next years when we celebrate Jamaica's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the journey continues....

To become a member of the JCA, contact the membership office: 416-746-5772 ext. 249  
or email: [membership@jcaontario.org](mailto:membership@jcaontario.org).

Submitted by: *Pam Reynolds* - Membership Services

# SENIORS MEMORIAL PAGE

## CARIBBEAN CANADIAN SENIORS CLUB

### Success Story Featuring Miss Viris Deer

Viris immigrated to Canada in 1989. She acquired employment as a home care worker two weeks after her arrival. Within the first year she became ill and was admitted to the hospital; two months later she was transferred to the rehabilitation center. Prior to her discharge JCA was contacted and she was referred to the Caribbean Canadian Seniors Club for therapeutic support. After three months of attendance Viris showed signs of great improvement and was interacting well with her peers. Since then, over the years, she has been busy providing therapy, help and support to many individuals who are facing similar challenges as hers. Distance and location is not a deterrent for her. Even now in her senior years she takes pride and is still passionate in giving back to others what was given to her. She has continued to be a dedicated member of the Caribbean Canadian Seniors and she has been recognized and awarded by the Club for the charitable work that she does for others.

Submitted by: *Trecia Lamey* - Seniors Facilitator

## SMTP REPORT

To date we have 23 students in registered in the Saturday Morning Tutorial Program. They are evenly distributed throughout all the academic levels and grades in Primary, Junior, Intermediate and Senior Divisions. We also have built a small roster of tutors: three who are able help out regularly, and three on alternate or occasional Saturdays. We still have room to accept additional students and tutors. The program focuses on time management, literacy/language, math and heritage. The first field trip for the year is scheduled for November 26, 2011 to tour SciNet, one of the largest research computer facilities in North America. Students will be given a tour of the facilities and the opportunity to do simulations on the computer, then as a reward, they'll have a Pizza Party. The party is only being arranged for this great group of students from JCA's SMTP.

All the best,

*Vilma Garnett*

Coordinator - SMTP



## DID YOU KNOW - BRINGING PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS TO CANADA JUST GOT EASIER

Bringing parents and grandparents to Canada is now much easier than before. The Government of Canada announced Nov 4, 2011 that in an effort to cut the backlog for sponsored parents and grandparents, they have implemented the "Parent and Grandparent Super Visa". As stated by Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney.

To deal with the large backlog and lengthy wait times, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) is announcing Phase I of the Action Plan for Faster Family Reunification.

**First** – The Government of Canada will increase by over 60 percent the number of sponsored parents and grandparents Canada will admit next year, from nearly 15,500 in 2010 to 25,000 in 2012 – the highest level in nearly two decades.

**Second** – The government is introducing the new "Parent and Grandparent Super Visa," which will be valid for up to 10 years. The multiple-entry visa will allow an applicant to remain in Canada for up to 24 months at a time without the need for renewal of their status. The Parent and Grandparent Super Visa will come into effect on December 1, 2011, and CIC will be able to issue the visas, on average, within eight weeks of the application. This means that instead of waiting for eight years, a parent or a grandparent can come to Canada within eight weeks. Parent and Grandparent Super Visa applicants will be required to obtain private Canadian health-care insurance for their stay in Canada.

**Third** – The government will consult Canadians on how to redesign the parents and grandparents program to ensure that it is sustainable in the future. The redesigned program must avoid future large backlogs and be sensitive to fiscal constraints.

**Fourth** – To prevent the build-up of an unmanageable number of new applications during these consultations and to further reduce the 165,000-strong backlog of parent and grandparent applicants, CIC is putting in place a temporary pause of up to 24 months on the acceptance of new sponsorship applications for parents and grandparents. The pause comes into effect on November 5, 2011.

"The Government of Canada is fully committed to helping families reunite," said Minister Kenney. "We recognize that what parents and grandparents want most is to be able to spend time with their families."

"If we do not take real action now, the large and growing backlog in the parents and grandparents program will lead to completely unmanageable wait times. Through this balanced series of measures, we will be able to dramatically reduce the backlog and wait times, while the new Parent and Grandparent Super Visa will allow more family members to pay extended visits to their loved ones," added the Minister. "We anticipate that in about two years, following our consultations, Phase II of our Action Plan for Faster Family Reunification will come into effect, ensuring that future applicants are processed quickly and that the program can operate on an efficient and sustainable basis."

For additional information on Phase I of CIC's Action Plan for Faster Family Reunification, see the attached background.

**For further information (media only), please contact:**

Candice Malcolm | Minister's Office | Citizenship and Immigration Canada  
CIC Media Relations | Communications Branch | Citizenship and Immigration Canada  
613-952-1650 | [CIC-Media-Relations@cic.gc.ca](mailto:CIC-Media-Relations@cic.gc.ca)

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL CAC UNSUNG HEROES AWARD CEREMONY

The newly formed Canadian African Caribbean Unsung Heroes Recognition Awards Committee successfully hosted their 1st Annual C.A.C. Unsung Heroes Awards on Sunday November 6, 2011 4pm - 9pm at the Jamaican Canadian Association. The support was outstanding by the black community at large as they attended in fine style to share in the vision of honouring our great achievers from within the Black Community that has served faithfully 7 years or more.

The Committee's mission is to create awareness of the outstanding achievements and contributions of African and Caribbean descents to Canada and internationally by providing a platform that publicly shows appreciation and honour to African Canadians, who demonstrate consistency in their concerns for change and improvement within the Black Community.

The Visionary and Director Simone Banton said, "We have birthed a purpose driven cause that will support Marcus Garvey's vision and promote the unification of our black brothers and sisters by demonstrating awareness of the teaching of our African Heritage and sustain the memories of those who have paved the way for us and to the nominees of 2011, as of Nov. 6, 2011 they are no longer unsung heroes for they are now publicly crowned heroes".

C.A.C. Unsung Heroes Committee proudly recognized 44 nominees for 2011 in the categories of: Education, HealthCare, Business, Arts & Entertainment, Community Leader, Law Enforcement and Media Relations.

Continued next page.....



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL CAC UNsung HEROES AWARD CEREMONY

Some individuals who received an award on Nov. 6, 2011 were:

**Health Care:** Dr. Sylvanus Thompson received the Good Samaritan Award for his consistent community work over 30 years and demonstration of love for youths and their growth in education while maintaining his focus as an excellent health inspector within the GTA.

**Arts & Entertainment:** Marcia Brown received the Award of Excellence for reaching out to the youths in support of educational funding and also creating a platform for the arts & entertainment to develop an enhance level where jobs can be provided for actors.

**Community Leader:** Kofi Sankofa received the Advocacy Award for his outstanding demonstration of sincere concern for change within the GTA and various Islands and Africa through mission outreach and mentorship programs.

**Milestone Award:** Eddie Grant received the Highest Award of the evening for over 30 years of consistent support within the black community by sharing the culture of Jamaica through the media worldwide.

The team and community are excited to present this event once again Nov. 2012 and the lines will open on February 1, 2012 for everyone to nomination someone that deserves to be recognized.

Be Proud of your heritage and never fail to impart the teachings to your generation and the ones that will follow for indeed we are a chosen generation and a force to be reckoned with for years to come.

For further information contact:

Tel: (905) 460-4145

Email: [info@cacunsungheroesawards.com](mailto:info@cacunsungheroesawards.com)

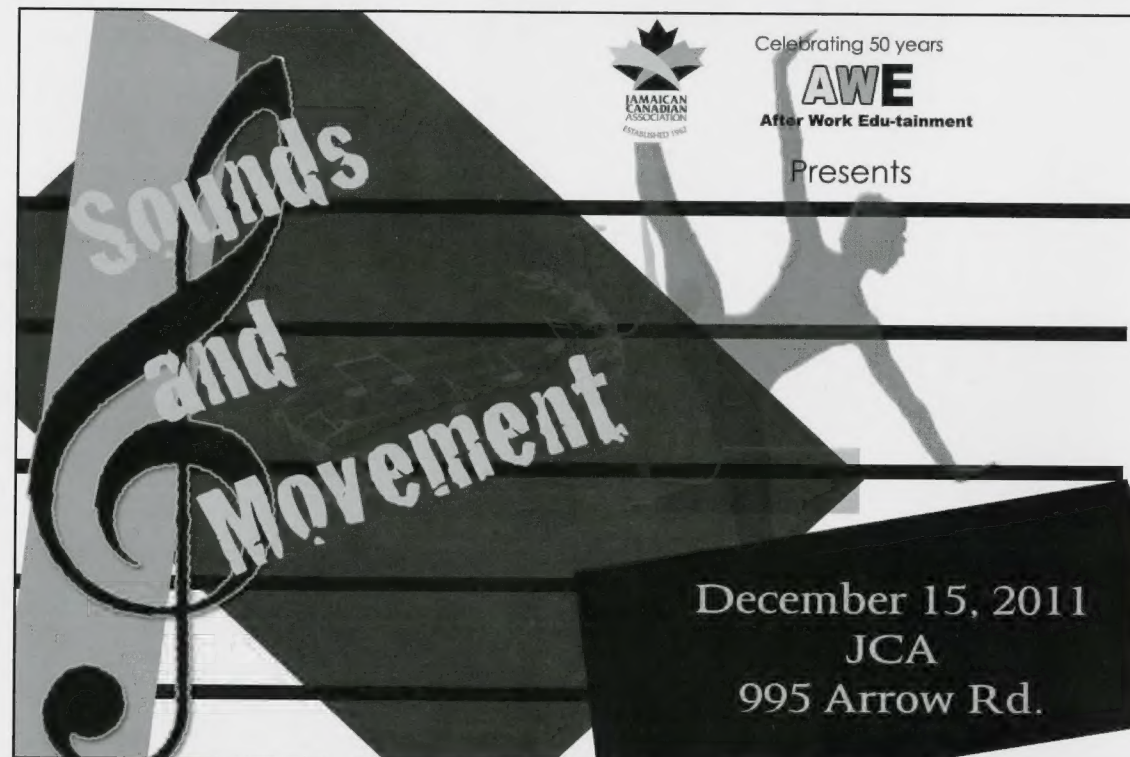
Website: [www.cacunsungheroesawards.com](http://www.cacunsungheroesawards.com)



## PRESS RELEASE FOR C.A.C. UNSUNG HEROES AWARDS NOV. 6, 2011







**Please join us December 15, 2011 at Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) for a “double whammy” - Soundz & Movement and Pure Drama.**

Soundz and Movement will take you through the development of Jamaican music and the dance associated to each, from Mento, Ska, Rock Steady, Reggae and Dancehall.

Pure Drama is a display of Jamaican culture through dramatic expressions.

Clear your agendas and be prepared for an evening of “Edutainment”.

**For more info, please email us or visit our website at the below links:**

Yolan Williams  
Public Relations Chair - JCA

[Publicrelations@jcaontario.org](mailto:Publicrelations@jcaontario.org) | [www.jcaontario.org/AWE](http://www.jcaontario.org/AWE)



**Come Have Fun**  
**At The Jamaican Canadian Association**  
**Bring Your Kids Ages 0-12**

**For a Fun Fill Day of Fun & Entertainment**

**December 4<sup>th</sup> 2011**  
**2PM TO 5PM**

Registration fee and or donation \$10.00 per child

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 23RD, NO EXTENSIONS, PLEASE REGISTER YOUR CHILD AND OR CHILDREN EARLY

**ACTIVITIES | ARTS & CRAFTS**  
**FACE PAINTING | STORY TELLER**

**995 ARROW RD.**  
**PAM REYNOLDS - MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**  
**@ 416.746.5772 EX 249 | LOCATION IS JCA**



# JCA UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY  
SUNDAY DECEMBER 4

AFTER WORK EDUTAINMENT (AWE) PURE DRAMA & SOUNDZ AND MOVEMENT  
THURSDAY DECEMBER 15

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY  
SATURDAY DECEMBER 31

416.746.5772  
[www.jcaontario.org](http://www.jcaontario.org) | [info@jcaontario.org](mailto:info@jcaontario.org)

